

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows by inserting the underlined matter and deleting the matter lined through.

[0023] As shown in FIG. 2, the reinforcing structure 12 is formed ~~within~~ with an array of perforations 14 (FIG. 2) formed therein. Preferably, the reinforcing structure 12 is formed with expanded metal sheet material. The expanded metal is of known construction, that includes sheet metal formed with an array of parallel, longitudinally offset slits that have been opened by lateral expansion of the sheet to form an array of perforations 14 in the sheet. Preferred embodiments are constructed of steel, galvanized steel, aluminum and like materials, having a thickness of approximately one-quarter to one-half inch. The combination of the expanded metal and exterior body is strong enough to withstand the loads applied to the structures in which the reinforced structural members are used. The reinforcing structure 12 can be formed of other materials that are compatible with the expected uses of the structural members, such as fiberglass.